

ARTICLE 29

GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED QUARTERS

1. Housing Occupancy Policy:

- a. Management will assign Government housing or quarters based on Management needs and availability. The assignment of Government housing or quarters is based in the first instance on the need to protect Government property and the need to render service to the public. The Local parties will negotiate, at the Local's request, a housing-occupancy policy applicable to local needs and conditions, which may be based on such things as seniority, family size, economic need, or other reasonable criteria. Housing or quarters rules and policies established by the Forest Service where occupancy is required as a condition of employment are negotiable at the local level. Issues related to rules and policies in all housing and quarters (including bunkhouses) may be addressed by parties at the appropriate levels.
- b. Government housing and quarters occupied by employees will be inspected at least annually according to Article 27. Occupant(s) will receive a 10-day notice prior to inspections except when delay would cause immediate damage to employees' and/or Government property. Living quarters shall also be inspected for leaks of flammable fuels or any other safety or sanitation hazards after any period of vacancy or a change in occupancy, immediately prior to reoccupancy by employees. The purpose of safety and health inspections is not to inspect Government-furnished housing and quarters for criminal activity.

2. **Searches:** Government housing or quarters used by employees exclusively for residential purposes will not be searched without a search warrant unless the person who exercises dominion or control of a specific area, either individually or in common with others, consents freely and voluntarily, or the

warrantless search is permitted by law. Residential areas include bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens, basements, bathrooms, and any additional areas that may be specified in the rental agreement. No coercion will be used to obtain permission to search housing or quarters. (This general statement does not modify, add to, or subtract from the settlement agreements regarding searches in NFFE v. Yeutter, Case No. 88-3505, United States District Court District of Columbia (USDC DC), and NFFE V. Madigan, Case No. 92-0553, USDC DC, which are binding on the Parties.)

3. **Quarters Inventory Survey:** Management will notify the Local Union when a survey is being done and give the Union a reasonable opportunity to review the collected data and also provide a copy upon request. When the Forest Service conducts a quarters inventory survey that includes an onsite visit, the Union and employee will be given an opportunity to participate. Management will ensure that the Union's and employees' comments are considered in any assessments.

4. **Implementation of Revised Rental Rates:**

- a. When rental rates for Government-furnished quarters are revised, they will be implemented in accordance with U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45.
 - b. If the rate increases, the occupant will be furnished a copy of the data element determinations on which the rental rate is based. The employee may grieve any determination under the provisions of Article 9.
 - c. If the rate increase exceeds 25 percent of the existing rate, Management will stage implementation to increase the base rental rate quarterly over the course of 1 year.
5. When an employee is working and living in an isolated area with only Forest Service transportation, the employee may transport unopened alcoholic

beverages as part of his or her regular groceries, providing alcohol is allowed at the site.